

# Stark County Democrat.

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ONE DOLLAR PER YEAR

## WHEELS MOVE.

The Machinery of the Law Has Been Set in Motion.

### ANNA E. GEORGE PLACED ON TRIAL

For the Alleged Murder of George D. Saxton, Which Occurred Last Fall.

### THE FAMOUS TRAGEDY GRAPHICALLY REVIEWED

After Months of Preparation the Trial of the Handsome Woman Whose Life Was Wrecked by Saxton, Is Begun Before an Able Jurist, Eminently Qualified to Protect the Interests of Both State and Defendant.

George D. Saxton was a wealthy man, a scion of one of the city's oldest and best known families. He was not more prepossessing than other men, but he had ways. About him was the glamour of wealth and the prestige of connections in high places. His place of abode was in handsomely appointed apartments in his own big block. His father had been prominent before him. Saxton had come to secure his luxuries, and an abundance of animal spirits and exuberant good health. He was fond of story telling and had a good one always with him. It cannot be said that he was ever very popular with men. His long suit was women, and his command of that suit a handsome one. He was once a beau. A long record attests that fact. In Canton, in Massillon, in Alliance and in other cities and hamlets the history of his visits has left the impress of its memory on a doting father or a trusting husband. One story in his life, which to him was an incident, but to his victim was a soul-rending and mind-destroying reality, lost him his prestige in Canton social circles, but could not take from him his wiles. On the contrary, it added to them an abandon that added to the danger of the innocent. No one knows why he cruelly broke the heart of the fair girl to whom he was engaged. Possibly it was because she was too happy. That he deliberately and systematically set about to wreck more families than one is confidently believed by many citizens of this city who know his history. Scandals began to find their way among the people, and George Saxton became an outcast from society, estranged by the circles that formerly knew him, avoided by former friends of the male sex and shunned by good women who had formerly welcomed him to their homes.

Such was the state of his existence when Annie E. George came into his life. She was a dressmaker, and she came to Canton with her husband. He was an honest carpenter. He was not wholly handsome, but his health was as exuberant as Saxton's. They had a family of bright children. His wife loved him and he loved her. She was a beautiful, rosy-

cheeked, attractively-shaped, big-hearted country woman. She had never dressed too well, as she could not afford it. Her needle was not always busy and her husband had not always the opportunity to wield the hammer and shape the saw. Yet rags could not detract from the gifts of beauty nature had showered upon her. She knew nothing of life as some women know it. She had but an indistinct notion of the difference between a spider and a butterfly in the social state. She was a woman—a bright-eyed, fresh-colored woman—and she was human.

The paths in life of the male character which has been described and the woman just referred to, crossed. The sequel is a murder told in the courts of Stark county, to which the attention of the people of the entire country is directed.

#### THE WAGES OF SIN.

On the night of October 7, 1898, George D. Saxton was murdered. He was entering the premises of Mrs. Eva D. Althouse, at 319 Lincoln avenue. Mrs. Althouse's residence built on a lot about four feet above the grade of the sidewalk. Saxton had ascended the wooden steps leading up onto the lawn, when a figure in black approached him. Apparently it was a woman. A man was standing on the opposite side of the street. He knew it was Saxton who had ascended the steps. He had often seen him there. It was quite dark, but he could also dimly see the approach of the person in black. Evidently words were spoken, but the man across the street could not hear them. Saxton attempted to pass on toward the house, but the person in black restrained him. A hand was laid on his arm. The person enveloped in the dark cloak of mystery may have been a woman who said: "Saxton, why did you enter the sanctity of my home and take out of my life the happiness that was in it?" or it may have been a woman who, consumed with a passion of love that a rebuff would transform into a deadly hate, said: "George, now that all obstacles have been removed, when are you going to keep the promise you have so often made me?" Whoever it was and whatever the answer, may

never be substantially known. But the man across the street indistinctly saw Saxton attempt to pass on. There was a flash and a report, followed by a second flash and report, and Saxton reeled and fell. The figure in black moved away a few paces. Soon it was seen to return. There were two more flashes and reports, and laden messengers of death again penetrated vital parts of the now prostrate and helpless victim. Then the figure moved swiftly and silently away. Someone's grievous wrongs had been avenged. The wage of sin had been paid.

#### SPIDER AND A FLY.

The story of the exploits of George D. Saxton and Mrs. Annie E. George is well known to Canton people. When he first saw her, it will be contended at the trial, he was struck by her beauty. He is said to have stated then that he would have her for his own. Later she moved into the Saxton block. There the spider had set his web. Small attentions were paid her at first, for Saxton was not a man to frighten a woman by suddenness. He could well bide his time. The prize was worth the winning. He showed his interest in the husband and in the children. This pleased the wife. Then the difference in the favors that fortune had bestowed began to become apparent to the wife. Sample C. George was the rugged, plain carpenter. Saxton was a man of the world, polished and cilly in his manner. He was ill-mated, he said. The world had something better in store for her than the life of a dressmaker, joined to a poor hewer of wood. She should have fine dresses and jewelry to set off her superb figure. He bought them for her. She was flattered, and she liked flattery. She thought she could be a great lady. Saxton had told her she could. It was her husband's station in life that was interfering with her social advancement, Saxton said. Sample C. George was honest, but he had not the veneer of the well-bred landlord of the Saxton block. He was heavy on his feet. In company he did not know just what to do with his hands. At table he ate pie with his knife, and committed other like assaults on etiquette. Soon the inevitable happened. Sample C. George was without the wife of his bosom. Then followed a short season of dubious happiness. But it was the same old tale with Saxton. He soon tired of the woman. They had several lawsuits. He retained her clothing in a room in his building and she had to bring a replevin suit to get it. Sample George sued him for alienating the affections of his wife. That suit was pending when Saxton secured a divorce for her in the Dakota courts. It is claimed, and an attempt will be made at the trial to prove, that Saxton promised then to marry her as soon as the case that Sample C. George had brought was settled. By clever maneuvering this case was withdrawn, Saxton paying Sample C. George \$1,895. A few days later the late husband suddenly recovered from his injuries and married an Alliance milliner and passed out of the case. Annie E. George now had no one left to flock to but Saxton. It is said, and witnesses will say so on the stand, that she had stated that if he did not marry her she would kill him.

When he was murdered, the police naturally looked for Mrs. George. She had been seen to go to the neighborhood. A man against whom she had made threats had been killed. She was arrested nearly three hours after the shooting, while entering her home at the Oberlin residence in West Tuscarawas street. At police headquarters she refused to talk. She has not talked since. At a preliminary hearing before Squire Reigner she was bound over to court. An indictment was returned against her, and her trial began today.

That is the history of the case. Whether Annie E. George killed George D. Saxton will develop at the trial. The state will make its best efforts. George D. Saxton is not here to be tried for debauching a home. A murder has been committed, and a court of justice has its machinery in operation to arrive at a conclusion, as to the guilt of Annie E. George.

#### WEAVING THE WEB

Upon Which May Hang the Guilt or Innocence of Mrs. Annie E. George.

On Tuesday morning, when the sun rose over the east hill and its light found its way to the court-house corridors, it lighted up a crowd of citizens who had evidently risen in a night. By 7 o'clock the corridors were crowded with those who were anxious to get into court



ANNA E. GEORGE, Accused of the Murder.

room No. 2, where the trial of Annie E. George was to be conducted. The doors to the court room were closed, as arrangements had been made to handle the crowds with less of a muddle than has characterized the conduct of the army of the curious on former occasions. Ropes were stretched from the clerk's office, making the passageway clear from that mode of ingress. The rear stairway was utilized for attorneys and newspaper representatives, and arrangements for them had been made in front of the railing.

Judge Taylor arrived at about 8 o'clock to see that all matters were in readiness. He appointed Homer Stone, ex-deputy sheriff, Squire Frank Darr and George Bowman as extra bailiffs and stated that more would be appointed if it were necessary. Bowman is an ex-guard at the penitentiary, and was the death watch for numerous prisoners who were executed. Bailiff Holman stationed his men at their posts and prepared for the rush.

Prosecutor Pomerene was the first attorney interested in the case to arrive. He came in from the clerk's office with a number of law books under his arm.

Attorney J. J. Grant was the next figure in the case to arrive. Mr. Grant assists Prosecutor Pomerene.

There was a little air of mystery about a young woman who came in through the clerk's office. Prosecutor Pomerene and Attorney Grant took charge of her. She is Mrs. Lora Hewig of Cleveland. Prosecutor Pomerene would not give any particulars concerning her, save that she is a witness for the state. It is learned that she was a visitor in Canton at the time of the shooting of George D. Saxton, and it is said to have been stopping in the west end of the city. Whether she saw Mrs. George or some one else on that night will develop at the trial.

The jurors began to arrive early. Evidently, they are an intelligent body of citizens. The crowd of curiosity seekers was not allowed to come in, but the jurors who had been summoned were given seats. It is evident that the court is disposed to see that those who have something to do with the case or have business in connection with it are made as comfortable as the circumstances and a small court room will permit. After that, the crowd of citizens may fill up the brief space behind the railing.

There was a delay in getting started. It was just three minutes to 10 when Judge Taylor said, "Mr. Bailiff, you may open court." Bailiff Holman recited the form, and then the court told him to send for Mr. Welty and Mr. Sterling.

In the meantime, Mrs. George, the accused, had been waiting at the jail to be sent for. She arose at about 6 o'clock and ate breakfast heartily. She had not been in the habit of eating breakfast, but felt so on this occasion. It was evidently felt that the first day of the trial would be a harassing one, but it was also expected that she would soon accustom herself to her surroundings. At 10:05 Judge Taylor said:

"Mr. Bailiff, have the accused brought into court."

The bailiff started on his mission but a few moments after the arrival of Attorney John C. Welty, chief counsel for the accused. Attorney Sterling arrived with the bailiff was absent. Mr. Sterling was accompanied by Sample C. George, former husband of the woman who is accused of killing the man who is claimed

to have alienated her affections from him. Mr. George returned at once to the counsel room in the rear.

A moment later there appeared at the doorway the accused, Mrs. Annie E. George. A murmur of admiration escaped from the spectators. She was handsomely gowned, her superb figure being shown in a blue storm serge suit, with black silk belt. The front was of pleated tulle silk of a lighter shade of blue. A black feather [box] increased the handsomeness of the effect. The jacket of the suit was trimmed with military buttons. As a head-dress she wore a black lace hat with two high black wings. A bunch of violets on the side made a pretty effect, and a steel buckle glistened half-hidden by lace at the front. Brown gloves encased her shapely hands. It was a stunning costume. Mrs. Siddenberger, a friend from Alliance, accompanied her, together with her son Newton, a bright young lad aged about 14 years.

"Are you ready to proceed in the case of Ohio vs. Annie E. George," inquired Judge Taylor, after Mrs. George had been seated.

Mr. Grant said that before proceeding he wanted to object to exceptions to interrogatories. The court decided this was not the time to raise the question, as it should be raised on the trial.

Mr. Welty then offered an affidavit, setting forth that Russell Hogan, son of Martin J. Hogan, was absent and that the defense felt that it could not safely proceed without him unless the motion he was about to offer was allowed. He then offered a motion that the case be continued unless the witness were secured or his evidence at the coroner's inquest be admitted as his evidence in this case. The court asked to see the affidavit and after examining it asked if the state thought the absence of this witness was ground for a continuance.

Prosecutor Pomerene stated that there were three witnesses absent on behalf of the state, and that the state felt like going ahead, but would confer. He and Attorney Grant went into a consultation room and remained for some time.

The matter that seemed to grind most was the proposition to introduce the testimony of Hogan as he gave it before the coroner. Hogan was standing near his home when the person in black who had done the shooting passed on the opposite side of the street. He said to the coroner that he could not tell whether it was a man or a woman.

"Could you tell whether it was Mrs. George or Mrs. Althouse?" was a question asked, to which Hogan responded that he could not.

The absence of Mrs. Althouse is also embarrassing, but the state does not appear to be so much worried about this fact as it might. The clue the prosecutor is said to have of her may account for this, and it is probable she will be on hand at the proper time.

After a consultation, the state decided to go ahead with the case. Mr. Pomerene stated that the state did not admit that Hogan could testify so favorably to Mrs. George as appeared in the coroner's report of the testimony if he were here. Yet as they desired to go ahead, they would admit that Hogan would testify if he were here as he did before the coroner. That testimony will therefore be admitted. It was the first victory for the defense, and Mrs. George showed her satisfaction by relieving the tension of

her position and settling back in her chair.

Bailiff Holman was then instructed to call the jury. Each juror answered. There were forty of them. After that had been done, Mr. Welty arose and offered a motion challenging the array. In support, he made the same complaints that he had made in the motion to quash the indictment and in the plea in abatement.

"Mr. Welty argued the points at some length, and then Mr. Pomerene began an argument for the state. It had not been concluded at adjournment time, and court adjourned to 1 o'clock.

#### TUESDAY AFTERNOON.

At the opening of the Tuesday afternoon session the seats in the action set aside for the audience were occupied by the prospective jurors. Prosecutor Pomerene had an argument to conclude, and the waiting crowd in the hallway was kept out until the decision was rendered.

Mrs. George was surrounded at the afternoon session by numerous friends. Mrs. Brown, a sister of the accused, Mrs. St. Clair, an aunt, and Mrs. McKnight, a friend from Hanoverton, Columbiana county, Mrs. George's former home, and in which vicinity she spent her girlhood days. Mr. Norris, a substantial citizen of that neighborhood, Mr. Jackson of Lisbon, and two other gentlemen from that place were also seated behind the accused and her attorneys.

Mr. Pomerene concluded his argument and Mr. Sterling answered, contending that the motion of the defense to set aside the array should be allowed.

Judge Taylor took the matter under advisement while the crowd in the corridors, or as many of them as could do so, came in. There was no rush, such as characterized the entrance of the curious at the morning session. When the doors were opened at the morning session, the late "death watch" at the penitentiary, who was stationed at the door, was almost knocked over by the people in their eagerness to get in. A young man with long hair and an athletic build emerged from the crowd the winner of a desirable seat. He was the center of a flying wedge. But two ladies were in the crowd at the morning session and none at the afternoon session, save the friends of Mrs. George.

Judge Taylor spent nearly half an hour of the session, after listening to arguments of counsel, in an examination of the statutes. The court gave a clear opinion on the challenge to the array, and set it aside. An exception was taken to the ruling by attorneys for the accused.

The first name on the list of jurors was then called and the attempt was begun to get a jury. There is no telling when it will be accomplished.

#### KNOW WHERE SHE IS,

But Can't Secure Her—Eva D. Althouse Intends to Hold Aloof.

It is learned that Mrs. Eva Althouse is not in the state. She is not in contempt of court, since she has not been served with a subpoena. The state knows where

she is. Attorney Sterling said Tuesday afternoon that Attorney Grant told him he knew where she was located, but [she] could not be secured. The attendance of a witness not subpoenaed cannot be secured if the witness desired is out of the state. Whether she will voluntarily return at the proper time is another matter.

#### THE WITNESSES

Who Have Been Summoned to Give Testimony in the Great Case.

Sheriff Zaiser and his deputies have completed their task of serving subpoenas in the great case now on trial. With few exceptions, notably Mrs. Eva Althouse, all have been served and the processes have been duly returned and filed. Following are the witnesses for both sides:

##### FOR THE STATE.

August Boren, Henry J. Bederman, Joseph Eckroate, Vinton Porter, Christian Eckroate, Nancy Nauman, Nettie McAllister, W. O. Wertz, Eva D. Althouse, Charles Dickertoff, Harry Noble, Jesse Taylor, Samuel Huestine, James Shetler, Chase Rittenhouse, Jesse Taylor, Mrs. Wm. Glick, J. L. Jackson, Ed. L. Becker, W. F. Cook, W. B. Boar, J. C. Stanton, E. D. Brant, A. C. Brant, M. J. Hogan, Russell Hogan, Perry Van Horn, Charles Lloyd, W. J. Hasler, John Dorland, Fred McCloud, Peter Quinn, Henry J. Piro, Aaron Rohm, Louis Kinley, Sarah M. Taylor, Elmer E. Willis, Frank M. Wyant, Ed. J. Rex, E. J. Lander, Edward J. Weber, Nancy A. Fisher, John H. Fisher, A. P. Owen, Uriah Henry, John C. Welty, Charles R. Frazer, Sample C. George, James Sterling, Maria Pontius, J. C. Hoover.

##### FOR THE DEFENSE.

Florence Klingler, Elmer Woodruff, Ada Gore, Charles Gore, Jeff Youngling, Galen Sheets, Jefferson Arter, B. T. Norris, Mary Ellen Brown, Sarah F. Sinclair, Leroy Sinclair, William Ray, Kate Bey, Joel Taylor, Sam Burson, Crosety George, John Spidel, Sarah Arter, George Brown, Almira Hotchkiss, Joseph Marshall, John Battin, Mary McKnight, Fannie McLean, Louisa Denning, Mrs. Charles Klein, Hattie Wright, Sarah M. Taylor, Christian Doll, Harry Fife, Charles Hoff, Alex Gunn, Andrew Wieland, Joseph Schludt, H. A. Smallfield, Fred P. Pfendler, J. A. Lippert, Henry Ketterling, Jacob Huddell, Mary Jones, Sadie Dittenhafer, Mary Levinger, C. A. Dougherty, J. H. Moog, — Adams, Charles Grimes, Jack Stanton, Eva Althouse, Laura Koomtz, Catherine Mayer, Alice Manderbaugh, Russell Hogan, John C. Miller, Alfred M. Herbst, James Fraunfelder, Nellie Porter, Annie A. George, Nettie Jones, Sarah Seddinger, David H. Jackson, Sample George, Howard George, George Finebrook, Newton George, Sarah H. Finebrook, Harry Taylor, Thomas Bard, F. Schuster, Joseph Jackson, Sarah Bard, Freeman A. Leaser, Beatie Taylor, Thomas Sheppard, O. C. Summers, Albert Gible.



GEORGE D. SAXTON, The Murdered Man.



JUDGE I. H. TAYLOR,

The Eminent Jurist, Who Will See to it That Mrs. George Get a Fair and Impartial Trial.